

Department of Public Health found that the number of deaths due to opioid overdoses is now nearly equal to the deaths from motor vehicle crashes. In the 4th District alone, over 200 lives were tragically lost due to this horrible epidemic. As a country, we can no longer afford inaction on an issue that has turned into an epidemic under our watch.

H.R. 2142 requires the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to increase the amount of chemical screenings to prevent the smuggling of fentanyl, opioids, and other narcotics into the country, either through mailing services or through a carrier. The bill also mandates that sufficient funds and employees, including scientists, are available to ensure thorough screenings and resources available at all operational hours. By giving our CBP officers a better chance of detecting these illicit drugs at the border, we may be able to save the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of Americans. Only with our action can we, as members of Congress, start to make a meaningful difference in this fight that is ravaging our country.

This is why I have strongly favored more funding to prevent the spread of the opioid crisis in the past, and will continue to fight for more resources that will end the opioid addiction crisis. For this reason, I am pleased to support H.R. 2142.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHILLIP V. SANCHEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of U.S. Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez, who served under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford in Honduras and Colombia, was a distinguished and influential leader serving the San Joaquin Valley. He was one of the first Latinos to hold public office and was known for his charitable nature, diplomatic character, and perseverance. The San Joaquin Valley will be forever indebted to Ambassador Sanchez for his tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

Phillip V. Sanchez was born on July 28, 1929. He was raised in Pinedale, California. At just six years old he would join his mother in the fields to pick fruit and cotton. His mother heavily influenced him to pursue an education. Mr. Sanchez graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and continued his education at Fresno State in political science. While in college, Mr. Sanchez joined the Army National Guard and advanced to the rank of colonel in the Army Reserve. He had over 40 years of military service.

In the 1960s, he began his career in public service as the Chief Administrative Officer of Fresno County. Ambassador Sanchez became a board member for Clovis Unified School District before being appointed by Governor Ronald Reagan to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and the California State University and Colleges Board of Trustees. He was also a trustee of the National Hispanic University. In the 1970s, Mr. Sanchez was appointed by President Nixon as the Assistant Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

After the Office of Economic Opportunity was dismantled in 1973, Mr. Sanchez was appointed Ambassador to Honduras. While in Honduras, he and wife Juanita adopted a child and began to help Americans adopt orphans. They had a love of children and later founded an orphanage in Mexico that they oversaw for 25 years. Under President Ford, Mr. Sanchez was transferred to Ambassador of Colombia.

Later in his life, Ambassador Sanchez worked as publisher of the New York Tribune and Noticias del Mundo, and was president of CAUSA USA, a faith-based anti-communist organization. After 9/11, Mr. Sanchez decided to return to the Fresno area to retire. He was honored at the 2008 Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala and in 2010 was named Chicano Alumni Legacy Builder by Fresno State. Mr. Sanchez made a positive difference in many lives and inspired people to follow their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of U.S. Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez, whose generosity and unending dedication to the community will be greatly missed. Mr. Sanchez's memory will live on through the contributions he made to our Valley and throughout the world. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his impactful life, which will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR DENNIS J. JACOBS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Dennis "Denny" J. Jacobs of East Moline, Illinois on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Denny was born in Rock Island County, Illinois on November 8, 1937 to parents Oral "Jake" and Shirley Jacobs. Denny graduated from United Township High School in 1955 and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ellen DuffY, shortly after. He is a graduate of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Denny and Mary Ellen raised six children.

Following in his father's footsteps, Denny dedicated nearly 30 years of his life to public service. He was elected Mayor of East Moline in 1973, a position he held for 14 years. In 1986 Denny was appointed to serve as Senator for Illinois' 36th District. He served his community in this capacity until his retirement in 2004. Denny not only made a deep impact on his district, but also on the State of Illinois. One of his biggest legislative accomplishments was expanding 9-1-1 service statewide. Denny worked tirelessly to advocate for his community and to bring investment to this region.

I join with his family and friends in congratulating him on this special occasion and wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

IN MEMORY OF ATTORNEY THEODORE ROOSEVELT BOWERS

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a veteran, educator,

civic leader, dedicated citizen and a great American, Attorney Theodore Roosevelt Bowers, who served his community, state and country well.

Attorney Bowers was raised in Bascom, Florida. After graduating from Rosenwald High School, he attended Florida A&M University (FAMU) in 1950. He was drafted into the United States Army but volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force instead from 1951 to 1954. After being honorably discharged in 1955, Attorney Bowers returned to FAMU and completed his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1958. He later obtained a Bachelor of Laws in 1961 from Howard University Law School.

Attorney Bowers started his legal career clerking at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. In 1962, he was admitted to the Florida Bar and remained a member for more than fifty years. He became the first African American to practice law in Bay County. Since that time, he has engaged in the private practice of law in the 1st, 2nd, and 14th Judicial Circuits of Florida. From 1962 to 1964, Bowers was an instructor of Political Science at FAMU. He served as a cooperating attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for five years (1965–1970). In standing tall for equality, he worked to integrate the schools so Black children in Bay County and surrounding counties would have access to equal education opportunities. His legal work was also instrumental in integrating the Bay Medical Maternity Ward and several local businesses in Bay County. His goal was always to "change the system and try to make America what it should be." Attorney Bowers received many opportunities to practice law in Washington, DC however, he was committed to the cause of Civil Rights and felt his services were better served at home in Northwest Florida. With this decision, he paid a high price both financially and personally including several attempts at bombing his car after leaving civil rights meetings in Marianna, Florida in the 1960's.

He served on numerous boards and commissions including the Board of Trustees for Gulf Coast Community College (1973–77) and the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (1979–1982). He was also elected and served as the first Black member of the Bay County School Board.

In June 2009, he was honored by the Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association as one of Florida's First Black Lawyers. In June 2012, the Florida Bar honored him for fifty years of practicing law in Florida.

Attorney Bowers was recommended to become a U.S. Attorney by President Jimmy Carter but his recommendation was blocked by the power structure in Florida. And he was instrumental in President Nixon withdrawing the name of Federal Judge G. Harold Carswell, a southern, strict constructionist conservative as a nominee to the Supreme Court.

Throughout the ensuing decades of his life and career he fashioned a powerful place in the public discourse on race and influenced the thinking of generations of young attorneys. Driven by an enormous heart and keen intellect, Attorney Bowers worked his entire life to "level the playing field" for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, with an unwavering dedication, strong values, and an avid pursuit of civil and human rights, Attorney Bowers made a tremendous impact in his community, the state of

Florida, and in our country. He will be remembered by a grateful nation.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 23, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. 504, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act

of 2017. S. 504 would permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card program, an initiative that provides expedited airport processing to those who are eligible.

The program, originally created for business travelers from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries, expanded to include United States citizens after the passage of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011. Without reauthorization, the program is set to expire on September 30, 2018.

Georgia is home to one of the world's busiest airports, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Atlanta residents witness first-

hand the chaos of international travel and the need for streamlined processing in international airports. S. 504 would permanently authorize designated lanes at airports in participating countries, encouraging companies to continue international trade operations and business transactions. Ensuring smooth and efficient modes of transportation is critical for Americans to expand our economy overseas.

As a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and member of the Aviation Subcommittee, I look for legislation that will streamline aviation safety, innovation, consumer service, and airport infrastructure. S. 504 achieves many of these goals, and that is why I support this legislation.